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Marked-up Specification
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pattern of perforations provided in the tubular section is selected to modify the expansion characteristics of the section and thereby constrain the expansion of the underlying stent.

32. (New) A covering for covering at least a portion of a stent, the covering comprising:
a tubular section of bio-stable material for covering an unexpanded stent wherein such tubular section is dimensioned so as to constrain the expansion of the stent, and wherein a pattern of perforations provided in the tubular section is selected to modify the expansion characteristics of the section and thereby constrain the expansion of the underlying stent.

REMARKS

Applicant calls to the attention of the Examiner U.S. 6,334,868. As the present case claims priority to at least January 15, 1999, the U.S. 6,334,868 reference does not appear to be prior art.

The claims have been amended as indicated to provide a scope of protection that differs from the claims allowed in preceding related applications. The claims submitted herein are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is believed that the present application, with claims 1 and 30-32 is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

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By: _____

James M. Urzedowski
Attorney Reg. No. 48,596

Suite 2000
6109 Blue Circle Drive
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343-9185
Telephone No: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile No: (952) 563-3001